

Amendments

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page ~~7~~⁶ line ~~12~~¹⁰, and ending on page 7, line 21, with the following paragraph:

C¹

Similarity analysis includes database search and alignment. Examples of public databases include the DNA Database of Japan (DDBJ)(www.ddbj.nig.ac.jp/); Genebank (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/web/Genbank/Index.html); and the European Molecular Biology Laboratory Nucleic Acid Sequence Database (EMBL) (www.ebi.ac.uk/ebi_docs/embl_db.html). A number of different search algorithms have been developed, one example of which are the suite of programs referred to as BLAST programs. There are five implementations of BLAST, three designed for nucleotide sequences queries (BLASTN, BLASTX, and TBLASTX) and two designed for protein sequence queries (BLASTP and TBLASTN) (Coulson, *Trends in Biotechnology*, 12: 76-80 (1994); Birren, *et al.*, *Genome Analysis*, 1: 543-559 (1997)).

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

C²

1. (Once amended) A substantially purified nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.